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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7739
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1916
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1537
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1441
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 2265
RUEHBAD/AMCONSUL PERTH 0533
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 000144

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DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, INL/AE
AID FOR K. ROSEN
NSC FOR E. PHU

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TAGS: PREL PGOV PINS ID

SUBJECT: ACEH -- AMBASSADOR REVIEWS SITUATION WITH NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF

Classified By: Ambassador Cameron R. Hume, reasons 1.4 (b,d).

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: The Ambassador recently reviewed the situation in Aceh with General Sutanto, Indonesia's national police chief. The Ambassador noted recent trends that were of concern, including the failure of local officials to make full use of federal funds and a rising crime rate in the province. Sutanto said he shared these concerns, adding that he planned to pay closer attention to the situation in Aceh in the future. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (C) On January 17, Ambassador Hume discussed the situation in Aceh with General Sutanto (one name only), commander of the Indonesian national police. The Ambassador said he hoped to visit Aceh again in the near future, in part in response to requests from senior Indonesian officials, such as Aceh Trust Fund Chair Pak Kontoro. The Ambassador said some of the trends were of concern: failure of local government authorities to make full use of the \$400 million in federal funds transferred to their account in 2007; expectations that the funds transferred would rise to \$800 million in 2008, without evidence of increased capacity to manage that funding level; and, a rising crime rate, in part attributed to unemployed former GAM fighters. On the one hand, the Aceh Trust Fund operation was scheduled to end in a year. On the other hand, both the local authorities and the federal authorities in Aceh, such as the police, seemed at a loss on how to address these problems and instill new momentum into the peace process.

¶3. (C) General Sutanto said he shared these concerns. In response to his question on what might be done now, the Ambassador replied that he would not have detailed views on what programs would help at least until he had a chance to return to Aceh and look at the situation first hand. However, it was certain that the current problems were creating more distrust between local authorities and federal authorities in Aceh, and that neither side could address problems such as crime on their own. If the police stepped up their activities without public support from Governor Irwandi and his colleagues, the public might side with criminal elements. Likewise Irwandi could not lower the crime rate without an active role by the police. Both had to

work together and be seen by the public to work together in order to expand the level of trust needed to sustain the peace agreement.

¶4. (C) Sutanto said he intended to pay closer attention to events in Aceh. He said he would be sure the orders were clear for the police to play a proper role in combating crime within the correct limits and in coordination with local authorities. In addition, he felt that the problem of trust between the two sides remained an issue, and he would welcome any steps that could be taken to increase cooperation and momentum behind the peace agreement.

HUME